श्री अश्विनी कुमार

होता है या विदेशों से आता है। पुलिस फोर्स के पास यह कसे आया? ऐसे हथियार पुलिस फोर्स के पास नहीं रहने चाहिएं। इस के लिए आपने टर्म्स आफ रिफरेंस में कोई समावेश किया है या नहीं। इन तीन विषयों के बारे में मैं मंत्री जी से जानकारी चाहूंगा।

श्रीमती राम दुलारी सिन्हा : माननीय दो सदस्यों ने जिन बातों का तजकिरा किया है और जो सवाल उन्होंने उठाए हैं उनके बारे में मैं उन्हें धन्यवाद देना चाहती हूं, लेकिन यह जरूर कहना चाहती हूं कि जब कमीशन सेट-अप हो गया तो अब मैं इस स्थिति में नहीं हूं कि कोई चीज कहूं कि इस चीज को उस में रखा जायेगा या नहीं रखा जायेगा और इन-क्वायरी कहां से शुरू होगी और कहां खत्म होगी। जो टर्म्स आफ रिफरेंस हैं उनका मैंने जिक्र कर दिया है।

जहां तक हथियारों की बात है, कालिंग अटेंशन के दौरान जो बहस हुई थी उसमें काफी बातें आ चुकी हैं। अख-बारों में भी बातें आई थीं और इस स्टेज पर मेरे लिए कुछ कहना कि विदेश से हथियार आए या देश के किसी कोने से आए या किसी और स्रोत से आए मैं समझती हूं लाजिमी नहीं है।

श्री अश्विनी कुमार : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि यह जो जांच हो रही है उसमें यह इनक्लयूडेड है क्या?

श्रीमती राम दुलारी सिन्हा : माननीय सदस्यों ने जो इसका स्वागत किया है उसके लिए मैं उनको धन्यवाद देना चाहती हूं। माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा कि रिपोर्ट को ठीक तरह से इम्प्लीमेंट किया जायेगा या नहीं, तो मैं यह आग्रह करूंगी कि 6 महीने की अवधि निर्धारित की गई है। जब वह रिपोर्ट आयेगी तो सदन के पटल पर रखी जायेगी और उस पर क्या किया जायेगा यह आगे की बात है। कमीशन आफ इनक्वायरी के टर्म्स आफ रिफरेंस में है कि :

Government will consider taking action after receipt of Commission's report.

3ft q^r WT 3cTPn |:

Sequence of events— period from April—June, 1985 to be included. Reference No. 3 is clear.

जितना मुझे कहना था मैंने कह दिया। अब आप लोग इन्तजार कीजिए कि रिपोर्ट आ जायें और सभा पटल पर रखी जाये।

THE COFFEE (AMENDMENT) BILL,[f] 1985

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Madam., I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Coffee Act, 1942, as passed by the Lok Sabha,, be taken into consideration."

As the House is aware, the Coffee Board has been functioning with the main objective of development of coffee plantations and regulation of sale and export of the produce from such coffee plantations. The plan and non-plan expenditure involved is met from the proceeds of duties of customs and excise levied under the Coffee Act, 1942. The present rate cf duty of customs and duty of excise on coffee has reached the upper ceiling of Rs. 11.80 per quintal as fixed under the Act. These rates have been there since 16-12-1977. The plan and non-plan expenditure of the Board excluding loans and subsidies has increased from Rs. 1.78 crore in 1978-79 to Rs. 3.90 crore in 1984-85. The budget estimates for 1985-86 are of the order of Rs. 6.45 crore. Expenditure however shot up tremendously ever the year whereas rates of duty on customs and excise are at the same level as they were fixed on 16-12-1977. Under non-Plan, there has been increase in expenditure due to increase in DA, ADA, interim relief etc. on

the establishment side and due to increase in research activities and marketing activities.

On the Plan side also, new schemes like manpower development, opening of coffee demonstration plarrts, setting up of chemical laboratories, storage and warehousing capacity etc. have been taken up. Eight new schemes are proposed to be taken up during 1985-86. The proceeds of the two duties would not be sufficient and, therefore, the Central Government had to resort to grant-in-aid to meet the expenditure of the Board during the financial year 1985-86. Since the proceeds of the two duties levied under the Act are not commensurate with the increase in expenditure of the Board, it has been found inevitable to amend sections 11 and 12 of the Coffee Act, to provide for a higher ceiling of levy of duty of customs and duty of excise, not exceeding Rs. 50 per quintal for each. The actual operative rates of the two duties will-however, be fixed at such levels as may be sufficient to generate funds to meet a substantial part of the Budget expenditure of the Board in future.

In the interest of uniformity and administrative convenience, it is also proposed to make the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, applicable for the purpose of refund of, and exemption from, pre-payment of duty of customs under the Coffee Act, 1942 in regard to exports of coffee.

Opportunity is also being availed of to substitute for the provision relating to laying of rules, contained in sub-section (3) of section 48, a new provision on the lines recommended by the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

With these words, I move the Bill for the consideration of the House.

The question was proposed.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): There are only two persons who take coffee and both are Ministers. Therefore, this may be passed without any discussion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Though it is tea time, we do not mind having coffee.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Let the Ministers sorve coffee.

श्री प्यारेलाल खंडेलवाल (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, काफी का उत्पादन हमारे देश में दक्षिण भारत के प्रान्तों में होता है और वह भी विशेष रूप से केरल, कर्नाटक और तमिल-नाडु में। लेकिन फिर भी यह हिन्दुस्तान की अर्थ-व्यवस्था का बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है। हम इससे बड़ी मात्रा में विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित करते हैं। लेकिन कुछ समय से काफी उत्पादकों की जो समस्यायें हैं, उनकी ओर का जितना ध्यान जाना चाहिए उतना नहीं दिया जा रहा है। काफी की खेती के लिए पानी की आवश्यकता होती है और इस समय जो स्थिति है उसमें हालत यह है कि वर्षा पर ही काफी का उत्पादन निर्भर है। अगर खेतों में पानी का इंतजाम किया जाए तो काफी का उत्पादन बढ़ाया जा सकता है।

महोदया, जैसा मैंने निवेदन किया कि काफी विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित करने के लिए एक बहुत अच्छा माध्यम है। इसलिए काफी उत्पादकों को सब प्रकार का प्रोत्साहन देना सरकार का काम है। लगता यह है कि सरकार का ध्यान इधर अधिक नहीं है और सरकार चाय तथा काफी में भेद कर रही है। चाय को कई प्रकार की सुविधाएं और छूटें दी गई हैं। उत्पादन शुल्क में भी छूट इस बजट में दी गई है लेकिन काफी पर उत्पादन शुल्क बढ़ाया जा रहा है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूंगा कि काफी और चाय के भेद को समाप्त कर दिया जाना चाहिए और जो सुविधाएं चाय को दी गई हैं, वही सुविधायें काफी को भी दी जानी चाहिएं। काफी उत्पादन केवल दक्षिण भारत के लोग करते हैं जो कि छोटे किसान हैं। या तो वे सीमान्त कृषक हैं या लघु

श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल

कृषक हैं और जो ऐसे छोटे हैं उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति इतनी अच्छी नहीं होती। इसका परिणाम यही है कि जब काफी उनके लिए घाटे का सौदा होता है, अलाभकर होती है तो वह काफी से दूसरे उत्पादन को और अपने आपको शिफ्ट कर लेते हैं। कूर्ग में ऐसा हुआ रहा है। कूर्ग में काफी के उत्पादक अब रबड़ उत्पादन में लग रहे हैं क्योंकि शायद रबड़ काफी के मुकाबले में उनसे ज्यादा लाभदायक मालूम होता है। इसलिए इस बात की आशा की जानी चाहिए कि काफी का उत्पादन सरकार की नीति के कारण कम न हो और अगर उत्पादन काफी का कम हो गया तो उसका विदेशी मुद्रा पर असर पड़ेगा, विदेशी मुद्रा के अर्जन पर असर पड़ेगा, यह मैं कहना चाहता हूं। साथ ही यह जो उत्पादन शुल्क बढ़ाने की बात की जा रही है, यह 50 रुपया जो बढ़ा रहे हैं मैं समझता हूं पहले तो उत्पादन शुल्क बढ़ाने की नीति ही सरकार को छोड़ देनी चाहिए और अगर बढ़ाने की बात भी है तो पहले यह देखना चाहिए कि क्या किसान को, काफी उत्पादन करने वालों को, काफी उत्पादक को इसका लाभ मिल रहा है। अगर लाभ नहीं मिल रहा है तो इस पर शुल्क बढ़ाने से भार काफी उत्पादक पर पड़ेगा और उसकी आर्थिक स्थिति पर पड़ेगा।

काफी बोर्ड का गठन 1942 के अधिनियम अधीन के किया गया था। इसके पश्चात् जगह-जगह काफी हाउसेज खोले गये। जो कुछ रिपोर्ट इसकी मिली है उसके आधार पर यह कहा जा सकता है कि काफी हाउस से अभी भी काफी घाटा सरकार को हो रहा है। यह सरकार के लिए घाटे का सौदा है। इसका विचार किया जाना चाहिए कि यह लाभ में कैसे बदले। मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आपके माध्यम से, इस ओर दिलाना चाहता हूं कि 1981 और 1984 के बीच में काफी का उत्पादन घटा है और घटने का कारण यह है कि लगातार इसमें उत्पादक की चि घटती जा रही है और क्या कारण है इसके उत्पादन के घटने के, यह भी देखा जाना चाहिए। मैं उत्पादन शुल्क बढ़ाने का समर्थन ले नहीं करता लेकिन सरकार से इस बात के लिए आग्रह करूंगा कि जो काफी उत्पादक की समस्याएं हैं उनकी तरफ विशेषरूप से ध्यान दिया जाए।

एक बात और कहना चाहूंगा कि काफी बोर्ड के माध्यम से इस बात की व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिए कि जो काफी के काम में लगे हुए हैं, श्रमिक हैं उन श्रमिकों को सुविधा दी जाए, उनके बच्चों को शिक्षा की सुविधा दी जाए, उसको और उसके परिवारों को स्वास्थ्य की सुविधा देने की तरफ अधिक से अधिक ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

SHRI M. M. JACOB (Kerala): Ma-dami Deputy Chairman, I am happy that the Commerce Minister has moved an amendment to the Coffee Act, 1942. This is because of the fact that the Government is conscious of the fact that more support has to be ^ given to the plantation, replantation, development and other various aspects of the coffee plantations, but at the same time, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the problems faced by the coffee plantation industry as such and also the production and the remuneration which the growers get out of this product. Now the proposal is to increase the duty of customs and excise from Rs. 11.80 to Rs. 50. It is a sudden jump of a substantial amount I see that this is an amendment to the Act. The present condition in the country, the plight of the coffee growers, the situation of the coffee crop and the pries which is realised, *are* not at all very encouraging. So, my first request is that even though we pass \ this amendment now. please do no implement it at this time because the situation of the coffee crop i_s not at all encouraging, the farmers are clamouring far better price. They realise that they are not going to get a remunerative price. Lots of memoranda and grievances are coming before

the Government and also the Members of Parliament who are coming from Southern States. Here I would likfe to mention one or two points.

Coffee is mostly grown in Karnataka, then in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In Andhra Pradesh, Assam Orissa, Miriam Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkirn, Maharashtra and Andamans it is grown to a limited extent, to some extent. Madam, in Karnataka 25,718 units of the coffee plantations are below 4 hectares. They are the small estates. Coffee plantations are called the coffee estates. In Kerala, 51,544 units under coffee are below 4 hectares. In Tamil Nadu, 14,793 units are below 4 hectares. Out of a grand total of almost 1 lakh hectares under coffee cultivation in this country, my point is that more than 94,000 hectares are small holders; they are not big estate owners. There are only 2,130 estates in the country where people grow coffee on more than 10 hectares. When we talk about coffee plantation industry, people who do not know the real facts believe that these are all big plantations owned by large multi-nationals. But the fact is that a majority of them are small holders, holding less than 4 hectares of land.

Madam, in this particular field, almost 3 lakh people are working as labourers. This is a labour intensive plantation. In Karnataka alone there are more than 2 lakh 30 thousand daily workers. In Kerala, their number is about 50,000. So this is a labour intensive crop. And now I come to my anxiety for telling this background. I happened to read a news-[v] paper item in the *Financial-Express* dated 1st August, 1985 under the caption "Coffee export quota cut". I draw your attention to this news item because coffee is sold inside the country and also exported outside the country. When you are exporting coffee, a portion of the coffee is exported to certain countries which come under the International Coffee

956 RS—18.

Agreement. They are called ICA countries or quota countries. There are 55 nations which are known as quota countries. But countries like the Soviet Union and East European countries are non-quota countries; they are free markets where you can sell your coffee. Some coffee is consumed here and some is exported. But we earn more money out of exports and export prices are always higher than the internal prices. The news item appearing in this Financial Express is slightly alarming to me and to all the coffee growers in this country.

> 'The International Coffee Organisation (ICO) wTiich controls the world supply of coffee cut its coffee export quota on Tuesday by one million bags to 58.2 million bags in response to a continued fall in coffee prices".

So this is the point which is alarming—the fall in the coffee prices in the international market. It was the third cut so far in 1984-85 in the global export quota The second was in July—September quota and the last was triggered July 4, when the indicated price dropped below 1.30 pounds. Madam, it is a drastic cut by the ICO countries who are supposed to receive our coffee. So there is a drastic cut in the acceptance of Indian coffee in foreign countries. The price is bound to fall again and again.

Madam, Brazil is our competitor in coffee. It grows not only coffee but rubber and many other crops. When there is a good crop in Brazil-—of course we are happy that that country gets money, but at the same time our product does not sell in the market. Many of the nations like Brazil are growing more coffee. Production has gone up and the indicator now is, according to the statement from the Coffee Board, that after monsoon it is likely that the coffee crop in India is also likely to go high. If this is the situation, I am afraid there will be a great problem for the coffee growers in our coufffy—in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala especially.

[Shri M. M. Jacob] The export duty on coffee is anothe: point which worries the farmers. Ex port duty which was Rs. 720 with effect from September 9, 1984 was reduced to, Rs. 570 per quintal on April 4, 1985 and again to Rs. 415 on June 6, 1985. But still, Rs. 415 is kept as export duty on coffee. When the international price is coming down, I appeal to the Minister to consider whether it is possible to eliminate the export duty on coffee. After all, you have removed the minimum export price for tea in order to boost tea exports. That was a good thing and tea growers in the country are happy about it. But why do you keep this Rs. 415—a nominal thing? Remove this as early as possible and let us have the benefit of the international market in the non-quota countries especially where we can sell freely.

Madam, I come to the last point which is of vital importance again, that is, the increase now anticipated by the hon. Minister, While coming to this I have to point out one factor about the immediate release price imposed by the Coffee Board or practised by the Coffee Board. For minimum release price the Coffee Board used to do costing and accounting to find out what is the cost of inputs, what is the fertilizer cost, irrigation cost and all that. This calculation is now ma le very leisurely and casually. Though the Government claims that the cos* study is periodically done, I don't tMnk it Is done periodically. Now, e\ ery month you find cost escalation of I'ae inputs. Every n>w and then you find that inputs are becoming. expensive. So, my request to tht Government is, please consider whether you can do the costing ev»ry year. Now you do it once in tnree years or so. Sometimes price escalation of the inputs is alarming. So, to prevent this kind of variation it Is necessary to have a periodical study of the cultivation costs. Therefore, I request the Minister to have at least an annual study on the minimum re-lease price so that based on this cost study they fix the minimum release 1 price. I request that the minimum release price may be fixed annually.

Madam, I would conclude with a request to the honourable Minister. Even though we are happy that you are amending the Act to make it more modern and to give more facilities to the growers, you have had only Rs. 4.75 crores as expenses for the Coffee Board in 1978-79. Now I find from your budgt that you are going *to* have more than Rs. 16 crores of expenditure this year for the Coffee Board. 1 appreciate it but, at the same time, why implement it when coffee does not have a market, when coffee does not fetch sufficient price, when the farmers are clamouring for more remunerative returns? That is my anxiety. Don't implement it now; you keep it 'pending. You pass it now but don't implement it. Keep it pending till a point when the market comes up when the farmers are happy to pay to more and then you can make more excise duty, more customs duty.

Thank you very much, Madam.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, Deputy Chairman, I am speaking on this Bill for two reasons.- Firstly, I represent this august House in the Coffee Board.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can brew it very well.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Thank you very much, Madam, for the compliment.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): You can give us some coffee!

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: I will give you something better now.

Secondly, Madam, this by itself is a very innocuous Bill. So, for the sake of the Secretary-General's *Lighter Moments in the Rajya Sabha,* I start with how President Tito of

Yugoslavia described good coffee should be. He said, "A cup of good coffee—it is a cup that cheers— should be as hot as the Sahara, as dark as the new moon night and"— pardon me, Madam—"as sweet as sin!"

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; Why should you say sorry—to me? 7 CO p. M.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Not you, Madam.

Indian coffee, Madam, has now, thanks to the good quality which is produced here, taken a pride of place among the coffee producers in the world although in terms of production it is hardly only one-tenth of one-twentieth of the total production in the world. But still, because of the various types we produce here, the Robusta, the Arabica and so many other varieties, thanks to the research work being done by the Coffee Board to improve the quality of the seed and all other efforts which are being made, this definitely ranks as one of the good coffees of the world. Karna-taka, Kerala, the States from which Mr. M. M. Jacob comes—he made a very lucid exposition on the Bill—and Tamil Nadu—these are the three large coffee-growing States as far as India is concerned. An effort is being made *to* produce coffee in non-traditional areas in the State to which our hon. Minister also belongs and other States in the North-East. Particularly in the Seventh Five-Year Plan, a very ambitious scheme for as much as Rs. 400 crores was given, but because of the constraints of funds it was cut down to Rs. 120 crores or even less. There is an effort to extend coffee. The reasons are different, r would not go into them here.

But one point, to mention which I would like to take this opportunity, is that through this Bill, as Mr. M. M. Jacob has said, because the expenditure of the Coffee Board has gone up, the Government wants to increase the levy to Rs. 50. But T do not think the *Government* is going *to* benefit to a huge extent or the Coffee Board is going to benefit to a huge extent by increasing it, by imposing it right now. They can keep it as an enabling provision. What the Government should do is this.

I am very happy that Shri Sangma has consented to be the leader of the Indian delegation at the ICO meeting in September. Mr. Sangma should talk to the Prime Minister and other concerned Ministers in this respect. The entire coffee is controlled by the International Coffee Organisation which fixes the annual quotas. Despite th$_e$ increasing production in India and despite the quality, the very big lobby consisting of the coffee growers of the American and the Latin-American countries ultimately prevails on the ICO. And there they go by the vot ing rights, and these countries have got the maximum voting rights. They always fix quotas to suite their pro duction. If the produ'tiir? is less in Brazil, its quota will go down; or it will go up depending upon how their prices will react to this. Therefore, what I should tell the hon. Minister, through you, Madam, is that because the world production has gone up, India should definitely for more rights in the ICO meeting, and for this a diplomatic offensive is required, not merely our delegation represent ing at the ICO meeting. I wish the Minister takes this up. Secondly, Madam, as very rightly pointed out by Mr. Jacob, the export duty on coffee is an irritant, and it ieserves abolition. Recently, the hon. Minister for Commerce, Mr. V. P. Singh, the Cabinet Minister has given a lot of sops for tea because the tea prices are falling and he has abolished the minimum export price and other related matters. He has given a lot of sops for tea. Similarly, coffee also requires a number of incentives, and the least that the Ministry can c'o is to see that the export duy on coffee is totally abolished or at least suspended for the time being particularly because many of the growers are small growers. They are vitally affected, and they ar$_e$ not able to put

[Shri R. Ramakrishnan J

in the necessary inputs. The coffee tree takes so many years, seven years, to grow and bear fruit. So, unlike in other industries, they are not able to plough back the profits. Particularly, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that as among the growers, the curers and the consumers, the curers are the ones who make the maximum profit. A certain amount of attention is required. Perhaps, taxation on the heads' of the curers may be required. But on the part of the growers it is definitely a big weight around their necks. So, I would request the Minister, at least on their own they have brought down the export duty considerably. But there is definitely a case right now for abolition of the export duty. Madam, before I conclude, I would only like to mention about this minimum reserved price. Mr. Jacob has no doubt suggested what should be the optimum to reserve the minimum price annually. But being a Member of the Board and also knowing the work being done by the Board. I can tell it is not such an easy matter—so much statistics and other things are required. It is not the question of mitre clerical or able work. The grower represents and the consumer represents which requires lot of work to be done. It becomes physically imoossible to complete this work within a year. The MRP is fixed from time to time. This is the difficulty there. However, I wish to get it done annually.

With these words, I support the Bill and once again appeal to the Minister to keep this particular report in abeyance and also to abolish the coffee duty.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sangma.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Madam, I thank the hon. Members for having participated in this debate. They gave very, very useful suggestions partial-

larly Mr. Ramakrishnan who is a member of the Coffee Board. Madam, coffee is a very important crop in our country. It gives employment to about 3.5 lakhs people. The most important ,f^sp3ct of coffee cultivation is that 90 per cent of coffee growers are under the category of small growers. And very often coffee industry is compared to the tea industry. Therefore, it is a very important industry and we attach lot of importance to the growth of coffee industry.

One of the hon. Members, I mean . the first speaker, has said that the coffee production has been coming down in our country which is not a fact. I think during 1974-75 the area undei coffee cultivation was 1,56,000 hectares. In 1984-85 it cam$_e$ upto 2,26,848 hectares. So, the coffee cultivation is not coming down. In terms of area, it is not true that they are shifting to other cultivation. As far as quantity of production is concerned, in 1974-75 it was 91,956 tonnes. In 1984-85 we had a record production of 1,94,000 tonnes. Therefore, it is certainly going up. I agree that, of late, there has been some problem in the international prices. It is in this context, I think, the Members have demanded that the export duty should be done away with. The House will remember that the export duty of coffee has been reduced as soon as we came to know about the international prices having crushed. We have taken action to reduce the export duty. In i fact, th$_e$ export duty is not charged if the international price of the cheapest variety of coffee falls below the basic remunerative level. It is only when the situation demands that the export duty is levied.

Mr. Jacob has expressed a concern about the cost of coffee quota. In fact, in September, 1984 Coffee Board had secured a modest increase in our quota. But subsequently there has been a cut. This cut is not cofittned to India alone but it is a global cut.

SHRI M.M. JACOB; I said about last month.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: I am talking about this month. Madam, 1 million bags constitute about 1.6 per cent quota cut. It applies to every coun-ntry. I do not think there is any point of being too much alarmed about this.

As far as the growers are concerned, as I said in the beginning, a comparison is made between the tea industry and the coffee industry. But I And that the coffee growers are more fortunate than the tea growers, because the policy that the Government of India has followed has been a very stable policy. Whereas in the tea industry the fate of it has been fluctuating. Sometimes it is good. Sometimes it is bad. Sometimes the prices are going up. Sometimes the prices are coming down. But it is not happening in coffee.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, do you come from coffee growing area or tea growing area.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA; I come from tea growing area, but we also started coffee and I think, Mr. R. Rama-krishnan has mentioned about the Government going in a big way to step up the coffee plantation in ron-traditional areas. It happened to be my area also. As far as the remunera tive prices to the growers is concer ned, I think, they are getting remu nerative price, though the minimum release price is Rs. 654 per bag, the domestic auction price is Rs. 911 and the export auction price is Rs. 1681 per bag and it will not be correct to say that growers are not getting remunerative prices. I have already explained the necessity for bringing this amendment Bill because, our expenditure has been going up and I ami happy that our Hon'ble Members have appreciated this point. I would not like to discuss it. Mr. Jacob has mentioned that from Rs. 11.80, it has jumped up to Rs. 50 per bag. Actually, it is not a sudden jump as you have pointed out. It is only an enabling section. But if you see the past history, though the upper limit of this duty was Rs. 11.80 which we have arrived at now but the imposition of this duty has been very gradual. So in 1960, it was Rs. 5/^though the upper limit was Rs. 11.80. In 1972, it was Rs. 7.50 and in 1973, it was Rs. 9.50 and it is only in 1977 that we reached this upper limit of Rs. 50. Rs. 50 is the upper limit and I can assure the Hon'ble Members that it is not going to jump up from Rs. 11.80 to Rs. 50 but gradually. I think, with these few words, I should conclude since the House is in a mood to pass it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Coffee (Amendment) Bill, 1985, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the clause-by-ciause consideration of the Bill

Clauses 2 to 5 *were added to the Bill Clause* 1, *the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Madam Deputy Chairman, I beg to move:

"That the Coffee (Amendment) Bill, 1985, as passed by the Lok Sabha be returned."

The question was put 'and the motion was adopted.

MESSAGES FROM THE LOK SABHA

L.The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 1985.

2. The Tobacco Board (Amendment BUI, 1985.

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam, I have to report to the House the following messages from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha.